



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 131ST FIGHTER WING
SAINT LOUIS, MISSOURI

6 May 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR 131st Fighter Wing Members and Families

FROM: 131 FW/CC

SUBJECT: Base Realignment and Closure Process

1. On or around 12 May, Secretary Rumsfeld will release the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) list. At this point neither we nor any other ANG unit know whether or not we are on the BRAC list. When it does come out, this list may be monumental in that Air National Guard bases may be significantly reduced as part of the overall DoD strategy. During previous BRAC processes ANG units were minimally impacted.
2. The Congress-approved BRAC process has defined milestones; three of them are significant:
 - a. 16 May: The SECDEF must submit his BRAC list to a 9-member commission. This BRAC commission is charged with validating the BRAC list. This is the first time that ANG units will know if they are on the list.
 - b. 8 September: The 9-member commission submits their report to the President. The President can either turn back the list for review or accept it as proposed.
 - c. 7 November: The President submits his recommendation to Congress. Congress has 45 days to disapprove the list as it is presented by the President. If Congress does not disapprove the list then it becomes law at the end of the 45-day period.
3. Until the SECDEF publishes his list, no one knows if the 131 FW or any other unit is on it. If we are not on the list, we will continue to operate as we always do. If we are on the list, I can assure you that we will not sit silently, but will continue to press forward and accomplish our mission with the support of our TAG, Governor, and Congressional Delegation to remain a viable entity at Lambert Airport. It's important to remember two things: (1) the process isn't over until Congress signs it into law, and (2) the realignment and/or closure process takes several years to complete; units that are on the list can expect to perform their mission for at least two to three more years.
4. We will ensure that everyone has access to the most up-to-date information through the public web site www.mostlo.ang.af.mil and the Commander's Information Line (527-6476).
5. The 131st Fighter Wing is one of the--if not *the*--finest F-15 units in the Air Force. We have a proud history, significant achievement record, and the best people in the ANG. *"It's what we do!"*

FOR THE COMMANDER

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Robert L. Leeker".

ROBERT L. LEEKER, Col, MoANG
Vice Commander